

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3561
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 04153

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR BOYD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, UK, CA
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-UK BILATERAL QUESTION

REF: LONDON 8249, PARA 2

1. EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY COMMERCIAL OR
ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE CANADA MIGHT GAIN FROM ASSISTING U.S.
BY IMPEDING DIVERSION OF U.S. TRAFFIC TO CANADIAN AIRPORTS.
INDEED, ANY CANADIAN ACTION WOULD PROBABLY IMPACT
NEGATIVELY ON ITS RELATIONS WITH UK. FURTHER, IT IS
DOUBTFUL GIVEN SCARCE UTILIZATION OF MIRABEL THAT WE COULD
INDUCE GOC TO PROHIBIT EXTRA FLIGHTS THERE.

2.MOST PASSENGERS COMING INTO MIRABEL WOULD HAVE TO BE
TRANSFERRED TO DORVAL FOR ONWARD FLIGHTS TO U.S. IN
CONVERSATION REPORTED PARA 3, OTTAWA 4008, MOT SOURCE
SUGGESTED THAT CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED TECHNICAL DECISIONS
WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE ON DORVAL IF USE OF DORVAL WAS
INCREASED TO PERMIT BRITISH TO CHANNEL U.S.-BOUND
PASSENGERS THROUGH MONTREAL. WHILE WE WOULD NOT EXPECT
GOC TO DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT BRITISH FROM EXERCISING
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EXISTING RIGHTS UP TO LIMIT OF CAPACITY OF EXISTING
FACILITIES, IT MIGHT REPEAT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO LET EXTAFF
KNOW THAT USG WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY CANADIAN ACTION
TO EXPAND FACILITIES OR OTHERWISE FACILITATE OR ENCOURAGE
BRITISH USE OF CANADIAN "SIDE DOOR" TO U.S. MARKET.
PRESUMABLY, GOC COULD, IF IT WISHED, PROCRASTINATE OR FIND
TECHNICAL REASONS FOR NOT TAKING SPECIAL MEASURES TO HELP

BRITISH. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, STILL BE POSSIBLE FOR BA TO MOVE PASSENGERS FROM MIRABEL TO NORTHEAST POINTS BY CHARTERED BUS OR BY SCHEDULED SERVICES FROM MIRABEL TO TORONTO AND THENCE TO U.S. BUT THIS WOULD BE INCONVENIENT FOR PASSENGERS.

3. EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO APPROACH GOC ON THIS QUESTION BUT IN DOING SO IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO BE ABLE TO REVIEW STATE OF US-UK NEGOTIATIONS, INDICATE WHY CANADIAN RESTRAINT IS DESIRABLE, AND, IF WE CAN, DEMONSTRATE THAT AIR CANADA'S LONG TERM INTEREST MAY BE BETTER SERVED IF THE U.S. VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AVIATION PREVAILS.

4. OUR 4008 REPORTED VIEW ATTRIBUTED TO AIR CANADA THAT THERE WAS ADEQUATE CAPABILITY ON ITS TRANSBORDER FLIGHTS AND THOSE OF U.S. CARRIERS TO HANDLE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF EXTRA TRANSATLANTIC PASSENGERS. WE SUGGEST CAB SHOULD MAKE ITS OWN ESTIMATE OF THIS SITUATION. IF CAB FINDS EXTRA FLIGHTS OR EXTRA SECTIONS COULD BE NEEDED, IT MIGHT CONSIDER WHAT AUTHORITY IT HAS TO PREVENT OR DISCOURAGE SUCH EXTRA FLIGHTS OR SECTIONS AND WHETHER DOING SO WOULD BE NET BENEFIT TO U.S. INTERESTS.

5. EMBASSY ASSUMES WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE DISCUSSING ISSUES WITH U.S. INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS. IF THEY HAVE MORE SPECIFIC IDEAS OF POSSIBLE BENEFITS TO AIR CANADA FROM DECLINING ACTIVELY TO COOPERATE WITH BA, EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT THEREON. ENDERS

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